



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Milwaukee Community Service Corps, WI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) was selected to receive a job training grant. Located on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan, the City of Milwaukee has historically been a major Midwest-



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the Milwaukee Community Service Corps for a job training grant. MCSC plans to train 64 individuals, place at least 56 in environmental jobs, and track graduates for as long as the organization is in existence. The 300-hour program will include OSHA health and safety training for hazardous waste workers, HAZWOPER, lead and asbestos abatement, confined space entry certification, and coursework in sampling and monitoring applications. Students will be recruited from among disadvantaged residents of metropolitan Milwaukee neighborhoods impacted by brownfields, with a primary focus on residents living within Milwaukee's Renewal Community. Individuals will be recruited through referrals from community-based organizations, probation and parole officers, and welfare-to-work caseworkers, with whom MCSC has built collaborative relationships. MCSC placement and retention staff will place graduates in environmental jobs and track their progress after graduation.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-4747
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Milwaukee Community Service Corps, WI
414-372-9040

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

ern industrial center. However, like many “Rust Belt” cities, Milwaukee’s manufacturing sector began to decline in the late 1960s. Today, abandoned factories and warehouses are common sites in the city’s poorest neighborhoods. For this grant, MCSC will target residents of Milwaukee’s Renewal Community (population 487,000), an economically distressed, predominately African-American community with a 25 percent unemployment rate and 53 percent poverty rate. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that approximately 59 percent of working-age African-American males in the target area are jobless, the highest rate found in any U.S. city. Existing and planned brownfields redevelopment projects abound in the Renewal Community and will generate significant demand for entry-level and advanced environmental workers. It is conservatively estimated that brownfields cleanup and economic development activities in the Renewal Community will create more than 3,500 new jobs within the next seven years.